



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepard Secretary – Dale Brier

March 19, 2014 1:00 pm

Turkey Run Inn
Turkey Run State Park
Parke County, IN

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Phillip Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp
Warren County - Steve Eberly
DNR – Steve Morris (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

William Smith - INDOT

Guests:

Keith Poole – Wabash County (alternate)
Susan Ostby - DNR
Sara Peel - WREC
Rae Schnapp – Wabash Riverkeepers
Brendan Kearns – Healthy Rivers (DNR)

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Jay County – Milo Miller
Vigo County – Kara Kish
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM; everyone introduced themselves, and John called for the proxies. Steve Morris reported Ryan Noblitt granted his proxy to the president. Ralph Weinzapfel asked that a request for WRHC brochures for a welcome center be added to the meeting agenda.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

William Smith from INDOT displayed WRHC river road and river access signs that have been approved for installation on INDOT controlled road right-of-ways. INDOT is prepared to install the signs pending WRHCC determination of the official river road and river access sites thru the WRHC. The river road signs will be placed approximately 5 miles apart. Signs will be placed less than 5 miles apart whenever there is a turn. Where the river road is not on a state controlled highway, the respective county or municipality that maintains that road will need to install the signs. Counties will need to coordinate where the river road crosses county lines. River access signs and arrows will also be installed by INDOT on state controlled right-of-ways, but again it will be up to local agencies to install signs for river access on local roads. There was some discussion on river

bridge signs. Steve Eberly and Bob Shepherd agreed to work on compiling bridge location information for the WRHC.

Officer Elections

Ralph Weinzapfel presented a proposed slate of officers from the nominating committee. The slate proposed John Gettinger as president, Dave Hacker as vice-president, and Bob Shepherd as Treasurer. Jim Andrews moved to nominate the officers as recommended; Arin Shaver seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of the January 22, 2014 Minutes

Bob Shepherd motioned to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by George Mears. Motion carried.

President's Report

John Gettinger reported that the executive committee met in Terre Haute on March 4th to finalize plans for the retreat. John also reported that a new watershed group has been established in Sullivan County that covers 85% to 90% of the county. They are taking advantage of Section 319 grants to improve water quality. John is also working on curriculum for the Sullivan County river expedition for local students.

Finance Report

Steve Morris had a handout with the current revenue and expenses from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) (see attached). The 2/28/14 balance of the WRHCF is \$406,376. Steve reported that on the expenditure side, some of the grant projects are progressing and showing expenditures. Also, since the January WRHCC meeting, an additional \$83,511 was encumbered for the Fountain County grant project that was supposed to have been encumbered earlier. Steve added that so far this year the Commission has had \$9,500 in sponsorships go through. Steve Eberly moved to accept the finance report as presented with George Mears seconding. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Executive – John Gettinger reported the committee met in Terre Haute on March 4th and focused on finalizing plans for the retreat.

Budget Report - Bob Shepherd presented a proposed 2014-2015 budget for the WRHCC (see attached). The budget proposes \$53,700 in expenses and anticipates \$230,000 in revenue. Dave Hacker moved to accept the budget as proposed and Jim Andrews seconded. There was a question about sign purchases not being included in the budget. It was determined that the budget could be amended as needed. Ken Einselen expressed concerns about an additional expense to be proposed later in the meeting and how it might impact the budget. Motion carried.

Grants – see Retreat Report under New Business

Banks of the Wabash (BOW) – Ken Einselen reported that BOW met yesterday and discussed how the Wabash River might be included as part of the state bicentennial celebration coming up in 2016. BOW is looking at the Year of the River celebrations that took place in Terre Haute last year as a good example to follow. They envision up to 200 events being planned along the entire Wabash River corridor. BOW is considering expanding its mini grant program to support these events. They also envision a \$7000 to \$10,000 commitment over 2 years for website developments and promotion of events. If the WRHCC is in support of this effort, BOW could utilize funds being held by BOW for WRHC projects or the WRHCC could approve a sponsorship grant from the

WRHCF. Rae Schnapp is proposing to go before the state Bicentennial Commission to ask that WRHC be included as part of the state bicentennial. After some discussion and no motion, this issue was tabled and BOW was encouraged to complete an official WRHCF sponsorship request.

Old Business

Funding Requests – no funding requests to approve

River Currents

John G. made the announcement that if you had something worth reading about the Wabash River then get it in so that it can be published!

Newport Chemical Depot Land Re-Use

Larry Southard reported that the transfer of property to the reuse authority is now complete. Larry also reported that there was a change in personnel at the director level for the reuse authority. In response to a question as to whether a river campsite is still possible on the property, Larry replied that while a campsite is still possible, no funding has been identified yet to make it happen.

Sign Program

Ken Einselen reported that now that the river road signs and river access signs have been approved by INDOT, steps can be made toward purchase of signs. The first step is finalizing routes for the river road and getting the number of signs that will be needed in order to get quotes.

New Business

Funding Requests

-Sol Fest – Ron Zartman presented a request for WRHCC \$500 sponsorship of Sol Fest being held in May in Allen County.

-Wabash River Fest Celebration – Mike Beauchamp presented a request for WRHCC \$1000 sponsorship of the Wabash River Fest Celebration being held in July in Wabash County.

Asian Carp

Mike Beauchamp reported there was a Corps of Engineers meeting held in Northwest Indiana related to regional control of Asian carp. Mike noted that the current plan of attack seems to be focused on expensive control efforts in the Chicago area. He testified at the meeting that there needs to more consideration given to Indiana rivers. Jim Andrew noted that he was present for Attorney General Greg Zoeller visit to the Lafayette area during his trip along the Wabash River. Jim stated Rueben Goforth is one of the leading researchers in control of Asian carp and is at Purdue University. Jim suggested Dr. Goforth be considered as a speaker for a future WRHCC meeting.

2014 Retreat Report

Susan Ostby reported the revised WRHCF grant criteria was presented at the commission retreat that was held earlier in the day. Susan passed out copies of the grant criteria to members who were not in attendance at the retreat. Susan also briefly reported on progress made during a WRHCC strategic planning session that she facilitated during the retreat. Susan will compile the ideas captured during the strategic planning session and submit to the commission for further consideration. Ron Zartman, Larry Southard and Keith Poole expressed support for natural surface trails within the WRHC and the WRHCF grant program.

Brochure Request

Ralph Weinzapfel reported that he had been contacted via email with a request to provide WRHC interpretive brochures to the I64 Welcome Center. Steve Morris said he would follow up on this request and ship the brochures.

Announcements, General Discussion, Final Comments

River Clean-ups - Upcoming river clean-ups include the Wabashiki clean-up in Vigo county being coordinated by St. Mary of the Woods on April 12th with a rain date of April 13th. There will also be a De-trash the Wabash clean-up in Tippecanoe County at Tapawingo Park on April 19th with a rain date of May 10th.

Rae Schnapp reported that the next meeting of Banks of the Wabash (BOW) would be on April 16th at Clabber Girl in Terre Haute. Rae also asked the WRHCC to renew its membership with BOW.

Ron Zartman announced the Sol Fest would take place in Allen County at Fox Island County Park on May 3rd and 4th.

Susan Ostby announced the Indiana Park & Recreation Association is planning a trails workshop to be held in Avon October 23rd that will focus on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund
FY14 as of 2/28/2014

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 166,784.80
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 5,798.06	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 405.86	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 173.95	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 649.41	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 456.19	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 344.90	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 7.87	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 40.18	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 4.19	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.98	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 98.18	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 41.40	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 63.73	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 119.35	
573100	Grants - Nonprofit Orgs	\$ 37,932.00	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 64.88	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 4,002.24	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 234.00	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 599.77	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 9,500.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 224.63	

Total FY14 Expense To Date: \$ 60,761.77

Fund Balance:		
	6/30/2013	613,854
FY14 revenues		166,785
FY14 Expenses		60,762
FY14 Encumbrances		313,501
balance as of 2/28/2014		406,376

DNR payroll	\$ 8,084.90
travel costs	\$ 4,836.01
sponsorships	\$ 9,500.00
operating	\$ 38,340.86
Total \$ 60,761.77	